

September 3, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSC WIRELESS MEETING TO BE SEPTEMBER 13 IN SCOTTSBLUFF

LINCOLN – A public meeting to examine the feasibility of regulating wireless telecommunications service in Nebraska will be held in Scottsbluff on September 13.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission meeting, which will be at 6 p.m. (MDT) in the Blue Stem Room of the Panhandle Learning Center at 4502 Avenue I, will be conducted in an informal format. Anyone who wishes to comment on various aspects of wireless service, including, but not limited to, billing, advertising, service contracts, and quality of service, may make a presentation to the Commission.

Fifth District Commissioner Jerry Vap of McCook will host the meeting. “Everyone in the state who is a wireless subscriber should be interested,” Vap said. “We want to know what their experiences are and what they expect from their wireless providers.”

This meeting will be the last of eight that have been conducted throughout the state during the months of August and September. The Commission will report its findings, both on comments made at the meetings and from written comments submitted by the August 31 deadline, to the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Nebraska Legislature. Legislative Resolutions LR 264 and LR 309 in the last session of the Legislature called for an interim study on wireless regulation.

In the August meetings at North Platte and McCook, Vap said, the Commission heard a variety of concerns about wireless telecommunications. “There were comments about a lack of tower facilities, dropped calls, and poor quality service,” he said. “Wireless users also complained about being billed for calls that were dropped or otherwise not completed. People do not feel it is right.”

As wireless telecommunications proliferates, Vap said he is increasingly concerned about reliance on wireless telephones for public safety issues, including the summoning of emergency help. “There are several areas in the 51 counties of the Fifth District where wireless service is not available due to a lack of towers.”

###